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SENATE BILL 6108

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State of Washington

60th Legislature

2007 Regular Session

By Senators Kastama and Rasmussen

Read first time 02/22/2007. Referred to Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to appealing from elementary and middle school  
2 scores on the Washington assessment of student learning; amending RCW  
3 28A.655.065; and declaring an emergency.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28A.655.065 and 2006 c 115 s 1 are each amended to  
6 read as follows:

7 (1) The legislature has made a commitment to rigorous academic  
8 standards for receipt of a high school diploma. The primary way that  
9 students will demonstrate that they meet the standards in reading,  
10 writing, mathematics, and science is through the Washington assessment  
11 of student learning. Only objective assessments that are comparable in  
12 rigor to the state assessment are authorized as an alternative  
13 assessment. Before seeking an alternative assessment, the legislature  
14 expects students to make a genuine effort to meet state standards,  
15 through retaking the Washington assessment of student learning; regular  
16 and consistent attendance at school; and participation in extended  
17 learning and other assistance programs.

18 (2) Under RCW 28A.655.061, beginning in the 2006-07 school year,  
19 the superintendent of public instruction shall implement objective

1 alternative assessment methods as provided in this section for students  
2 to demonstrate achievement of the state standards in content areas in  
3 which the student has not yet met the standard on the high school  
4 Washington assessment of student learning. A student may access an  
5 alternative if the student meets applicable eligibility criteria in RCW  
6 28A.655.061 and other eligibility criteria established by the  
7 superintendent of public instruction, including but not limited to  
8 attendance criteria and participation in the remediation or  
9 supplemental instruction contained in the student learning plan  
10 developed under RCW 28A.655.061. A school district may waive  
11 attendance and/or remediation criteria for special, unavoidable  
12 circumstances.

13 (3) For the purposes of this section, "applicant" means a student  
14 seeking to use one of the alternative assessment methods in this  
15 section.

16 (4) One alternative assessment method shall be a combination of the  
17 applicant's grades in applicable courses and the applicant's highest  
18 score on the high school Washington assessment of student learning, as  
19 provided in this subsection. The superintendent of public instruction  
20 shall determine which high school courses are applicable to the  
21 alternative assessment method and shall issue guidelines to school  
22 districts.

23 (a) Using guidelines prepared by the superintendent of public  
24 instruction, a school district shall identify the group of students in  
25 the same school as the applicant who took the same high school courses  
26 as the applicant in the applicable content area. From the group of  
27 students identified in this manner, the district shall select the  
28 comparison cohort that shall be those students who met or slightly  
29 exceeded the state standard on the Washington assessment of student  
30 learning.

31 (b) The district shall compare the applicant's grades in high  
32 school courses in the applicable content area to the grades of students  
33 in the comparison cohort for the same high school courses. If the  
34 applicant's grades are equal to or above the mean grades of the  
35 comparison cohort, the applicant shall be deemed to have met the state  
36 standard on the alternative assessment.

37 (c) An applicant may not use the alternative assessment under this

1 subsection (4) if there are fewer than six students in the comparison  
2 cohort.

3 (5) The superintendent of public instruction shall develop an  
4 alternative assessment method that shall be an evaluation of a  
5 collection of work samples prepared and submitted by the applicant, as  
6 provided in this subsection and, for career and technical applicants,  
7 the additional requirements of subsection (6) of this section.

8 (a) The superintendent of public instruction shall develop  
9 guidelines for the types and number of work samples in each content  
10 area that may be submitted as a collection of evidence that the  
11 applicant has met the state standard in that content area. Work  
12 samples may be collected from academic, career and technical, or  
13 remedial courses and may include performance tasks as well as written  
14 products. The superintendent shall submit the guidelines for approval  
15 by the state board of education.

16 (b) The superintendent shall develop protocols for submission of  
17 the collection of work samples that include affidavits from the  
18 applicant's teachers and school district that the samples are the work  
19 of the applicant and a requirement that a portion of the samples be  
20 prepared under the direct supervision of a classroom teacher. The  
21 superintendent shall submit the protocols for approval by the state  
22 board of education.

23 (c) The superintendent shall develop uniform scoring criteria for  
24 evaluating the collection of work samples and submit the scoring  
25 criteria for approval by the state board of education. Collections  
26 shall be scored at the state level or regionally by a panel of  
27 educators selected and trained by the superintendent to ensure  
28 objectivity, reliability, and rigor in the evaluation. An educator may  
29 not score work samples submitted by applicants from the educator's  
30 school district. If the panel awards an applicant's collection of work  
31 samples the minimum required score, the applicant shall be deemed to  
32 have met the state standard on the alternative assessment.

33 (d) Using an open and public process that includes consultation  
34 with district superintendents, school principals, and other educators,  
35 the state board of education shall consider the guidelines, protocols,  
36 scoring criteria, and other information regarding the collection of  
37 work samples submitted by the superintendent of public instruction.  
38 The collection of work samples may be implemented as an alternative

1 assessment after the state board of education has approved the  
2 guidelines, protocols, and scoring criteria and determined that the  
3 collection of work samples: (i) Will meet professionally accepted  
4 standards for a valid and reliable measure of the grade level  
5 expectations and the essential academic learning requirements; and (ii)  
6 is comparable to or exceeds the rigor of the skills and knowledge that  
7 a student must demonstrate on the Washington assessment of student  
8 learning in the applicable content area. The state board shall make an  
9 approval decision and determination no later than December 1, 2006, and  
10 thereafter may increase the required rigor of the collection of work  
11 samples.

12 (e) By September of 2006, the superintendent of public instruction  
13 shall develop informational materials for parents, teachers, and  
14 students regarding the collection of work samples and the status of its  
15 development as an alternative assessment method. The materials shall  
16 provide specific guidance regarding the type and number of work samples  
17 likely to be required, include examples of work that meets the state  
18 learning standards, and describe the scoring criteria and process for  
19 the collection. The materials shall also encourage students in the  
20 graduating class of 2008 to begin creating a collection if they believe  
21 they may seek to use the collection once it is implemented as an  
22 alternative assessment.

23 (6)(a) For students enrolled in a career and technical education  
24 program approved under RCW 28C.04.110, the superintendent of public  
25 instruction shall develop additional guidelines for a collection of  
26 work samples that evidences that the collection:

27 (i) Is relevant to the student's particular career and technical  
28 program;

29 (ii) Focuses on the application of academic knowledge and skills  
30 within the program;

31 (iii) Includes completed activities or projects where demonstration  
32 of academic knowledge is inferred; and

33 (iv) Is related to the essential academic learning requirements and  
34 state standards that students must meet to earn a certificate of  
35 academic achievement or certificate of individual achievement, but also  
36 represents the knowledge and skills that successful individuals in the  
37 career and technical field of the approved program are expected to  
38 possess.

1 (b) To meet the state standard on the alternative assessment under  
2 this subsection (6), an applicant must also attain the state or  
3 nationally recognized certificate or credential associated with the  
4 approved career and technical program.

5 (c) The superintendent shall consult with community and technical  
6 colleges, employers, the work force training and education coordinating  
7 board, apprenticeship programs, and other regional and national experts  
8 in career and technical education to create an appropriate collection  
9 of work samples and other evidence of a career and technical student's  
10 knowledge and skills on the state academic standards.

11 (7) The superintendent of public instruction shall study the  
12 feasibility of using existing mathematics assessments in languages  
13 other than English as an additional alternative assessment option. The  
14 study shall include an estimation of the cost of translating the tenth  
15 grade mathematics assessment into other languages and scoring the  
16 assessments should they be implemented.

17 (8) The superintendent of public instruction shall implement:

18 (a) By June 1, 2006, a process for students to appeal the score  
19 they received on the high school assessments; (~~and~~)

20 (b) By January 1, 2007, guidelines and appeal processes for waiving  
21 specific requirements in RCW 28A.655.061 pertaining to the certificate  
22 of academic achievement and to the certificate of individual  
23 achievement for students who: (i) Transfer to a Washington public  
24 school in their junior or senior year with the intent of obtaining a  
25 public high school diploma, or (ii) have special, unavoidable  
26 circumstances; and

27 (c) By June 1, 2007, a process for students to appeal the score  
28 they received on the elementary or middle school assessments.

29 (9) The superintendent of public instruction may adopt rules to  
30 implement this section.

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** This act is necessary for the immediate  
32 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the  
33 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect  
34 immediately.

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